

Visions of the Smart Grid:

Deconstructing the traditional utility to build the virtual utility

Tom Standish

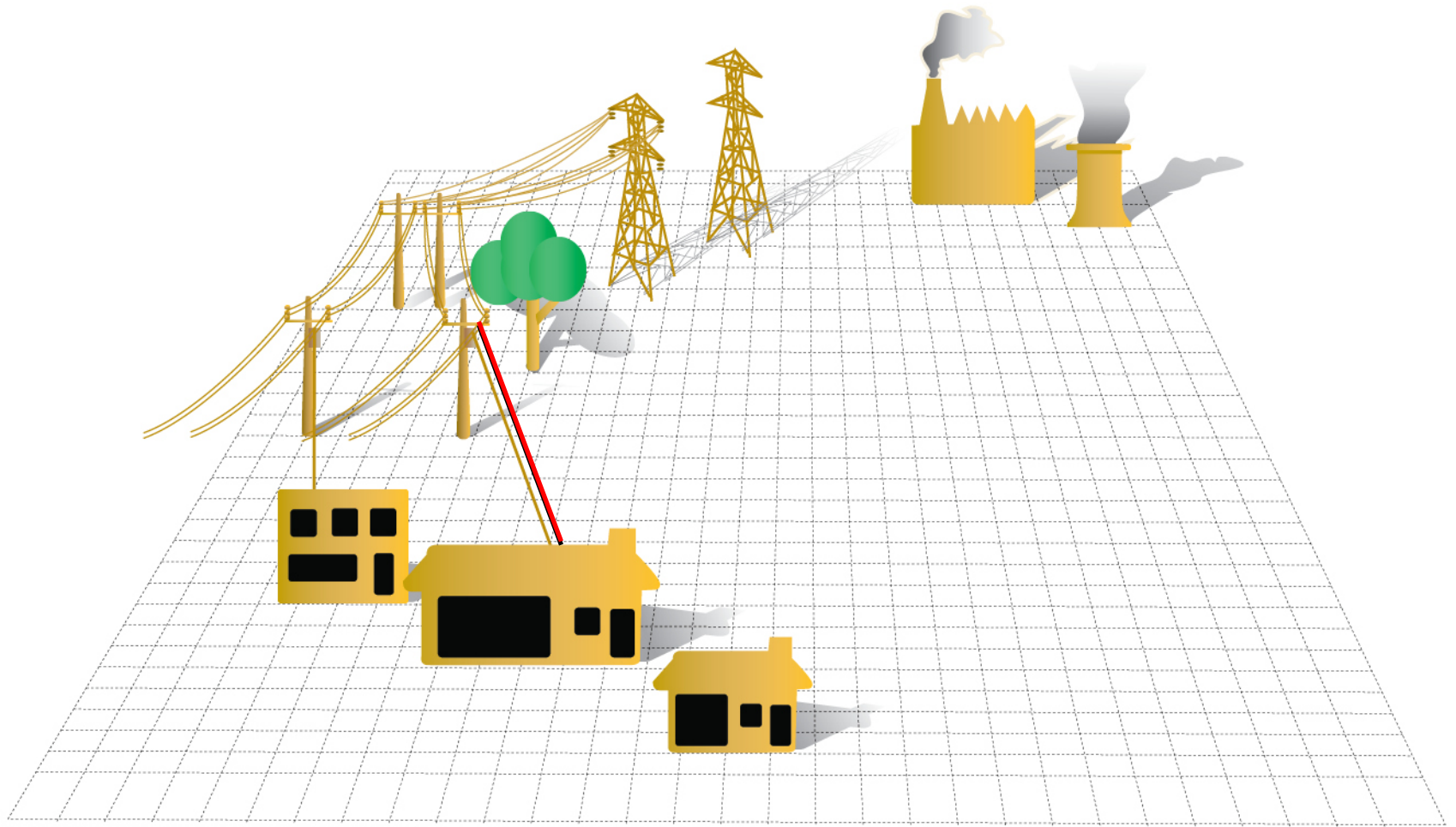
Group President & COO

Regulated Operations

CenterPoint Energy



The Traditional Utility



Smart Grid Vision



Create a digital communication path to enable information flow for operation and control of the efficient production, transportation and use of energy.

**VIRTUAL
UTILITY**

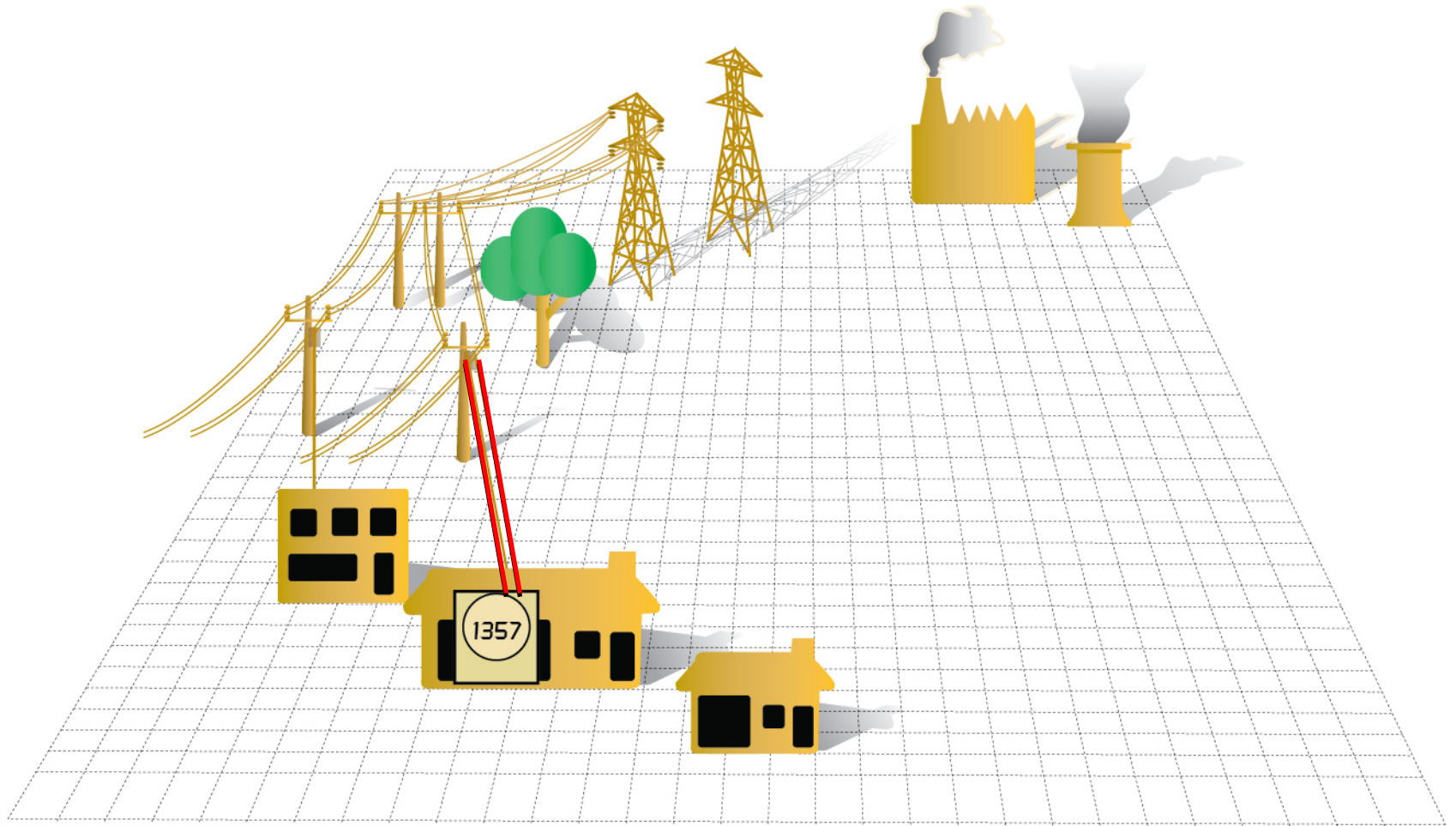
A pyramid diagram with four levels. The top level is labeled "VIRTUAL UTILITY" in yellow. The second level is labeled "DISTRIBUTED GENERATION" in red. The third level is labeled "INTELLIGENT GRID" in blue. The bottom level is labeled "SMART METERING" in blue. The pyramid is made of brown blocks with a lighter tan top surface.

DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

INTELLIGENT GRID

SMART METERING

Smart Meters




Requirements

- Two-way digital communication between host and meter to provide:
 1. Interval meter data
 2. Real-time price support
 3. In-home two-way communications
 4. Remote connect/disconnect

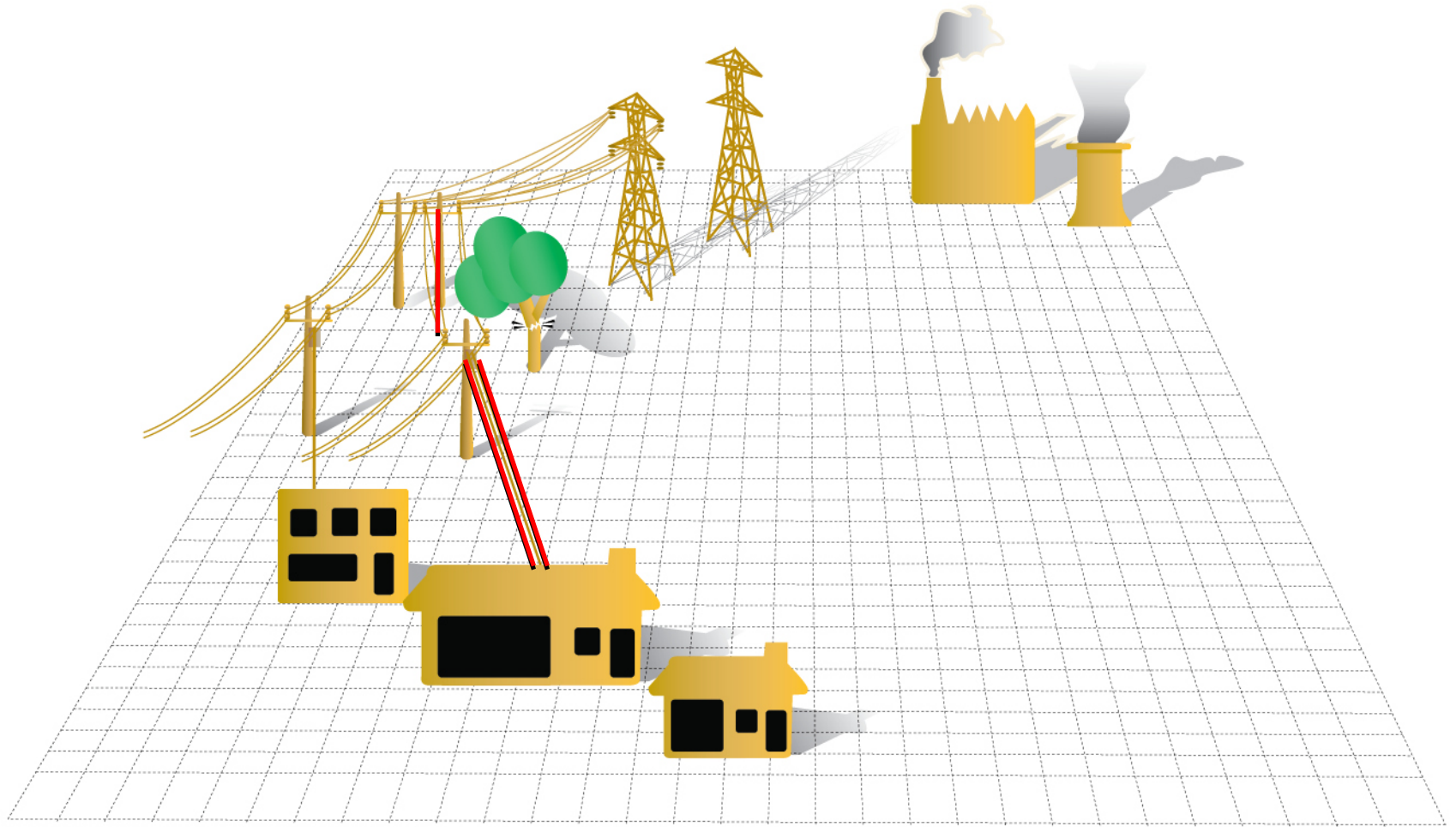
Benefits

- Demand response
- Energy efficiency
- Smart homes
- Less generation
- Savings justify the cost of infrastructure

Smart Meters – Outcome

- 
- A thick, yellow, curved swoosh that spans the width of the slide, positioned below the title and above the list of outcomes.
- Little change in utility structure
 - Significant gains in load smoothing
 - Most control handled by utility with more information provided to customers
 - More knowledge of their consumption
 - Consumers begin to become more active participants
 - Improved operating efficiency
 - Savings support further grid enhancements

The Intelligent Grid



Requirements


- Need to meet ever-increasing customer expectations of reliability and power quality
- Need to care for aging infrastructure

Benefits

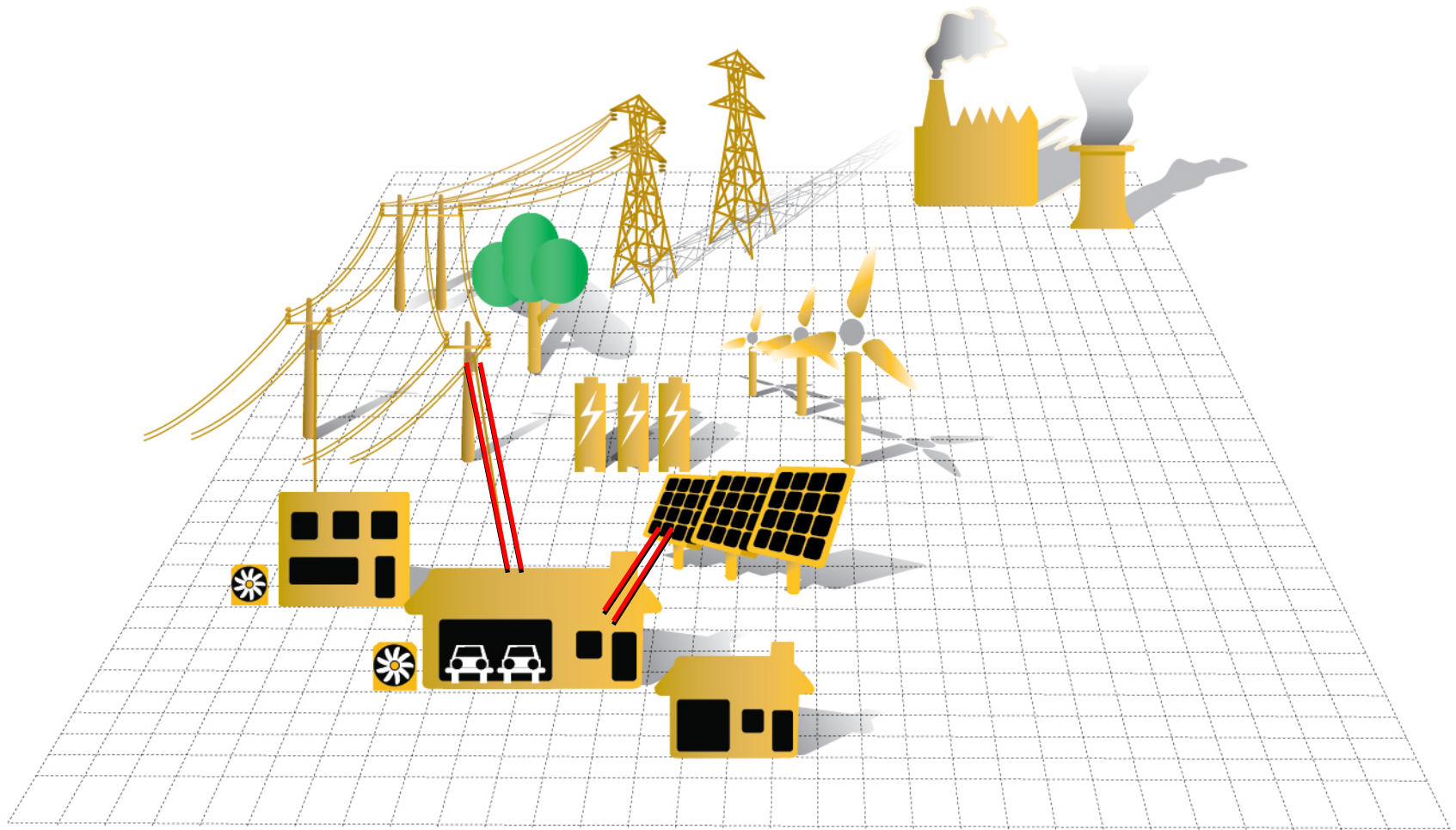
- Improved power quality and reliability
 - Self-healing grid
 - Improved fault detection
 - Diagnostics for outage prevention
- Optimized life of electrical assets
- Help offset decline in workforce
- Reduced costs

Intelligent Grid – Outcome



- 
- A thick, yellow, curved line that starts on the left, rises to a peak in the middle, and then tapers off to the right, acting as a decorative separator between the title and the list.
- Still a utility-centric paradigm
 - Improved system reliability
 - Improved outage response
 - Improved customer satisfaction
 - Extended life of electrical assets
 - Operational improvements
 - Savings
 - The foundation is set for utility transformation

Distributed Generation



Distributed Generation

Requirements


- Market drives requirements
- Need to address rising consumer costs
 - Energy
 - Transportation (PHEVs)
- Connecting distributed generation to the grid

Benefits

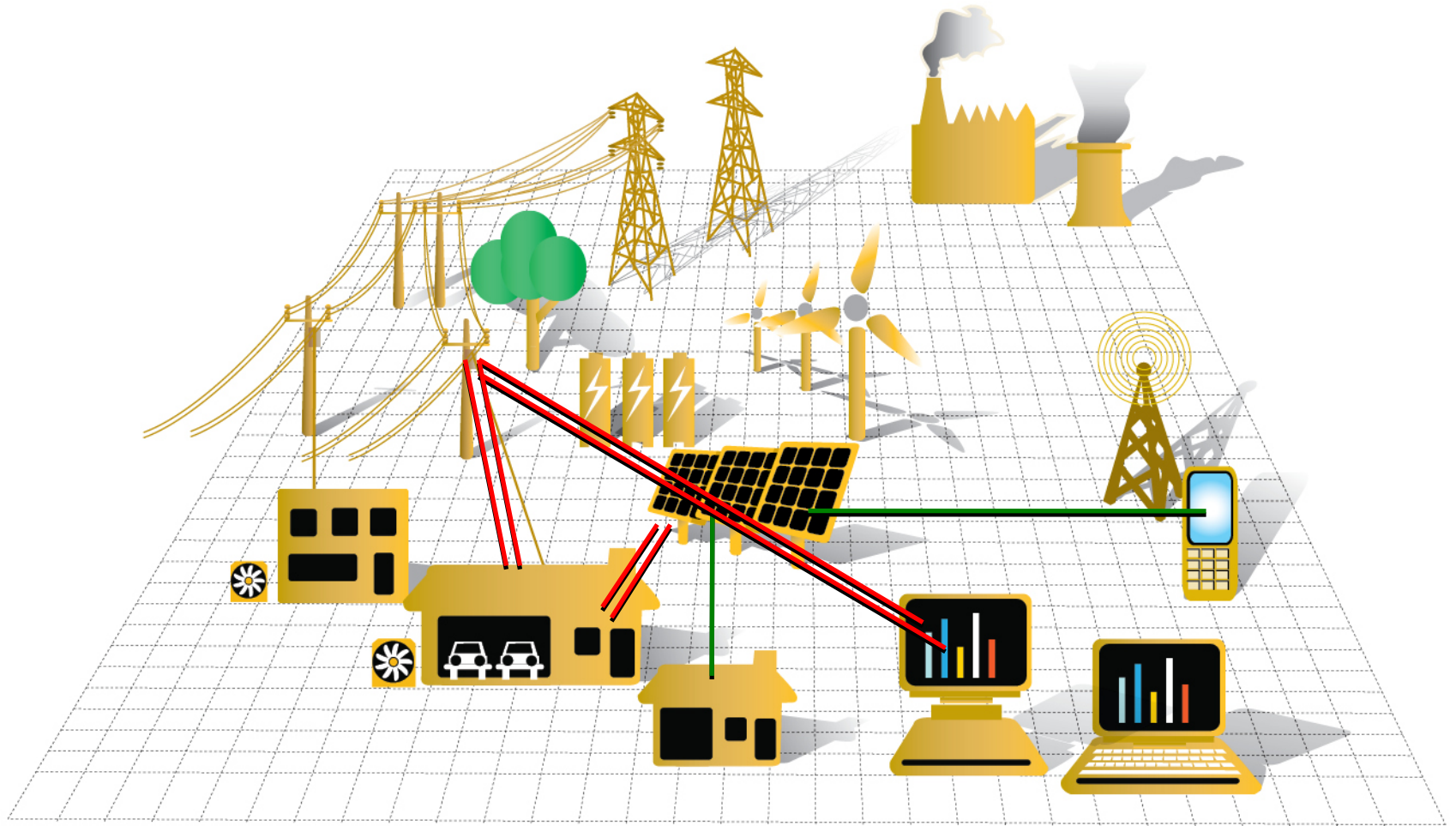
- Real demand response
- Time-of-day response
- Environmental benefits

Distributed Generation – Outcome



- 
- High energy prices and environmental awareness awaken consumers to alternative energy choices
 - Utility-centric paradigm shifts to the consumer
 - Empowerment of power-generating consumers
 - The grid doesn't disappear, but ...
 - ... it begins to operate in a new way

The Virtual Utility



The Virtual Utility



Requirements


- Willing participation in creation of user-friendly Internet solutions
- Seamless integration
- Plug-and-play compatibility
- Consumers must be more interactive participants
- Power sharing

Benefits


- Expansion of market-driven energy services
- Energy efficiency
- Environmental benefits
- Benefits shared across the energy chain among utilities and non-utilities
- Consumers better understand and control their energy usage
- Smart homes

The Virtual Utility – Outcome




- 
- A thick, yellow, curved swoosh that spans the width of the slide, positioned below the title and above the list.
- The Virtual Utility is the outcome of the convergence of Smart Meters, the Intelligent Grid and Distributed Generation
 - Deconstruction of the old paradigm – the utility is no longer in control
 - Consumers choose automated or manual energy management
 - The market takes over, drives solutions
 - Market solutions close gap of consumer expectations


Obstacles

- 
- A thick, yellow, curved line that starts on the left, rises to a peak in the middle, and then tapers off to the right, acting as a decorative separator between the title and the list.
- Expense
 - Scope of technology change
 - Resource strains
 - Time is not our friend
 - Aging workforce
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Rising consumer expectations
 - Cultural barriers


Obstacles

- 
- A thick, yellow, curved line that starts on the left, rises to a peak in the middle, and then tapers off to the right, acting as a decorative separator between the header and the list.
- Short-term thinking
 - Inability to imagine the new virtual utility paradigm
 - Lack of collaborative spirit
 - Lack of coordinated R&D b/w utilities and vendors
 - Lack of standards, definitions, interoperability
 - Unwillingness to deconstruct the paradigm

Solutions

- 
- A thick, yellow, curved line that starts on the left, rises to a peak in the middle, and then tapers off to the right, resembling a stylized swoosh or a horizon line.
- Cost may slow project, not stop it
 - Assess cost of not automating
 - Holistic, not piecemeal approach
 - Capture institutional knowledge
 - Spread the vision, let go of fear, embrace the future

Solutions

- 
- A thick, yellow, curved line that starts on the left, rises to a peak in the middle, and then tapers off to the right, resembling a stylized swoosh or a horizon line.
- Develop a roadmap
 - Take the APQC survey
 - Mandates and the market drive solutions
 - Collaboration
 - Willingly participate in user-friendly solutions
 - National standards
 - Shape the future before it shapes us

The Virtual Utility



- Digital communications ignites the transformation
- Realization of the Home Area Network
- Deconstructing the old paradigm
- Growth opportunities are non-traditional
- Collaborative management of the market
 - Generators
 - TDU's
 - ISO's
 - Vendors
 - REPs
 - Consumers
- Utilities that quickly adapt will be most successful

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QUESTIONS?